

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method for the manufacture of fiber-reinforced moldings in a resin mat apparatus, the method comprising: performing a manufacturing procedure from a mixing of components of a resin mixture to a procedure of pressing a molding in a continuous manner of operation by the following process steps:

mixing a thickening agent with a resin mixture;

spreading the resin mixture onto a lower belt and an upper belt, to form lower and upper resin mixture layers;

depositing, onto the lower resin mixture layer, fibers selected from the group consisting of chopped glass fibers and/or long fibers, and bringing together the lower and upper resin mixture layers and conveying them into a kneading and imbibing system in a resin mat apparatus to form an endless resin mat;

for a time-prescribed maturation process, carrying the endless resin mat in a meander by the lower and upper belts through a controlled-temperature, continuous thickening unit; and

dividing the endless resin mat into predetermined patterns, feeding the patterns to a heated molding press, and pressing the patterns to form moldings.

2. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that a maturation process time is established by a selectable length of the belt supports in the continuous thickening unit and a rate of production.

3. Apparatus for the practice of the method according to claim 1, comprising:

mixing stations for mixing components of a resin mixture;

doctor blades adapted to spread the resin mixture onto a lower and an upper belt;

an apparatus for applying chopped glass fiber to a lower resin mixture layer on the lower belt;

a kneading and imbibing section for forming the lower resin mixture layer and an upper resin mixture layer into an endless resin mat;

a maturation section including a continuous thickening box for the process of maturation of the resin mat passing meander-wise over controlled-temperature belt supports;

a cutting mechanism for the cutting to length of blanks upon emergence of the resin mat from the continuous thickening box; and

a molding press in which the blanks are deposited and pressed to form moldings.

4. Apparatus according to claim 3, characterized in that the lower and upper belts are endless and sufficiently strong for continuous operation.

5. Apparatus according to claims 3 and 4, characterized in that a length of the maturation section is composed of a plurality of partial lengths of the belt supports arranged one over the other.